

Representative Dustin Johnson Congressional Staff

Courtney Heitkamp, State Director

South Dakota Hot Topics

- The Air Force continues to investigate the PFCs (PFAS/PFOA) at Ellsworth AFB. The highest priority currently is defining where wells or other drinking water may be impacted and providing alternate water supplies. The plume extends off base to an extent the Air Force is trying to define. Other work includes initial delineation of contaminated soil areas and a treatability study to see if PFC-contaminated soils can be stabilized or encapsulated.
- Expected EPA proposal of Modifications to Fuel Regulations to Provide Flexibility for E15 (SD is the sixth largest producer of ethanol)
- Dewey Burdock Uranium In-Situ Recovery Project in Edgemont, SD: EPA expects to finalize UIC Class III and Class V and associated aquifer exemptions for the project in 2020. South Dakota will need to complete work on a large-scale mining permit before the project can begin.

Congressional Bio

Dusty Johnson brings an energetic and optimistic style to Washington as South Dakota's lone voice in the U.S. House of Representatives. A "policy guy," he works hard to be a knowledgeable and value-added member on issues related to his two primary committee assignments: Agriculture, Education & Labor.

Business Background

Prior to being elected to Congress, Dusty served as vice president for Vantage Point Solutions, a South Dakota-based engineering and consulting firm specializing in rural telecommunications. Vantage Point has more than 200 employees and helps rural providers design, build, and operate broadband systems in 40 states. Dusty is an expert in state and national telecommunications policy, especially Federal Communications Commission reform efforts and the transformation of the Universal Service Fund.

Public Service Experience

In 2004, Dusty was elected statewide to the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission. He worked with his colleagues to maintain a fair and reasonable regulatory environment, facilitating the investment of hundreds of millions of dollars into rural energy and telecommunications infrastructure. In 2010, Governor Dennis Daugaard asked Dusty to serve as chief of staff, the chief operating officer for much of state government. In that role, Dusty oversaw many of the Governor's top projects and initiatives, especially those related to infrastructure and public safety.

Personal

Dusty grew up in a large working-class family in central South Dakota. He has degrees from the University of South Dakota and the University of Kansas. Dusty has been an active community volunteer, having served as a Sunday School teacher, adjunct faculty member at Dakota

Wesleyan University, and president and board member of Abbott House, an agency serving abused and neglected children. He lives in Mitchell with his wife and three sons. As a family, they enjoy hiking, camping, hunting, and reading.

Committee Assignments:

Committee on Agriculture – A recognized leader in issues related to rural America, agriculture, and welfare reform, Dusty was grateful to receive the unusual honor of being named ranking member of the Nutrition, Oversight, and Department Operations Subcommittee as a freshman. This panel allows him to focus on how SNAP Food Stamp program reforms can better prepare Americans for a life beyond poverty and on ensuring that all aspects of the Farm Bill are successfully implemented. Dusty also serves on the Commodity Exchanges, Energy, and Credit Subcommittee.

Committee on Education & Labor – Dusty is involved with workforce development issues on the full committee and focuses on healthcare and other employer benefit issues as a member of the subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions. His seat on the Civil Rights and Human Services Subcommittee (with jurisdiction over low-income heating assistance, work incentive programs, and poverty programs) allows him to pursue his passion for reforming welfare.

Key Priorities:

Dusty's key priorities are the Coronavirus, agriculture, tribal affairs, infrastructure, education, veterans, border security, economy, energy, second amendment, trade, Congress and health.

What he's working on now (in addition to the coronavirus)

Johnson urges clarification for farmers and ranchers on SBA loans 4/10/20

Johnson urges President Trump to oversee comprehensive investigation into cattle markets 4/8/20

Members of Congress urge USDA to provide immediate assistance to cattle producers 4/1/20

Older Americans Act heads to President's desk 3/11/20

Johnson commends USDA plan for moving forward with beef labeling changes 3/6/20

Johnson questions Brazilian beef imports 2/24/20

Johnson-backed Surprise Medical Billing Act passes committee 2/13/20

Johnson, Soto introduce bill to ensure clear meat processing and labeling 1/30/20

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